

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303763
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 INT-05 /036 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS:MBENEFIEL:EW

APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:LMNAKATSU

COMM/NOAA/NMFS:DWEIDNER

COMM/OIM/SSA:MADERHOLD (SUBS)

ST E-NEA/INS:JGRAHAME (SUBS)

STATE-OES/OFA/FA:LMNAKATSU

STATE-OES/OFA/MST:RDEHAAN

----- 012346 /43

R 151558Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FISHERIES CATCHES AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

REF: A) NEW DELHI 13660, 1976, B) BOMBAY A-42, 1975,

C) NEW DELHI A-231, 1975, D) NEW DELHI A-123, 1975,

E) MADRAS 1554, 1974, F) NEW DELHI 16099, 1974.

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE, IS PREPARING A SUMMARY REPORT ON RECENT TRENDS IN INDIAN FISHERIES FOR PUBLICATION IN A U.S. FISHING INDUSTRY TRADE JOURNAL. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED TO SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON. POST REONSE IS REQUESTED BY JANUARY 10 TO MEET PUBLICATION DEADLINE.

2. SINCE EXCELLENT REPORTING IN REFS C AND D ON 1973-74 AND 1974-75 SHRIMP SEASONS, NMFS HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY POST

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REPORT ON 1975 OR 1976 SHRIMP SEASONS OR ON INDIAN

SEAFOOD COMMODITY TRADE. JAPANESE IMPORT DATA FOR THE FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 1976 SHOW THAT IMPORTS OF INDIAN SHRIMP DECREASED 15 PERCENT IN QUANTITY BUT INCREASED 62 PERCENT IN VALUE FROM THE COMPARABLE PERIOD OF 1975. POST IDENTIFICATION AND APPRAISAL OF THE SHRIMP, CATCH AND MARKET SITUATION FOR 1975 AND 1976 IS REQUESTED.

3. NMFS IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN INDIA'S FISHERY EXPORT COMMODITIES COMING TO U.S. MARKET. U.S. IMPORT DATA FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1976 SHOW TOTAL SEAFOOD IMPORTS FROM INDIA INCREASED 53 PERCENT IN QUANTITY, 90 PERCENT IN VALUE FROM COMPARABLE 1975 PERIOD. POST COMMENT ON THIS TREND, ESPECIALLY WITH REFERENCE TO FROZEN SHRIMP, LOBSTER TAILS, AND FROGS LEGS IS REQUESTED.

4. ACCORDING TO FDA DATA, 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS OF FISHERY IMPORTS FROM INDIA WAS DETAILED AT U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 3, 1976, FOR SUCH REASONS AS SHORT WEIGHT, DECOMPOSITION, INADEQUATE LABELING, PRESENCE OF SALMONELLA BACTERIA OR FLIES. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN A TOPIC OF BILATERAL CONCERN AND POST REPORT ON INDIA'S DOMESTIC MEASURES TO CONTROL QUALITY AND IMPROVE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF PROCESSING PLANTS IS REQUESTED.

5. REPORT IN REF C LEADS TO QUESTION ON IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM. IS THIS SYSTEM STILL A PRIME MOTIVATION FOR INDIAN SEAFOOD INDUSTRY? ARE RICH BUT UNEXPLOITED SHRIMP GROUNDS (REF C) OFF WEST BENGAL AND ORISSA NOW BEING FISHED COMMERCIALLY?

6. BOMBAY IS REQUESTED TO UPDATE REPORT IN REF B ON UNDP AND BILATERAL AID FOR COASTAL FISHERIES SURVEY WORK AND RESEARCH VESSEL CONSTRUCTION FOR INCLUSION IN REPORT. NEW DELHI IS REQUESTED TO UPDATE LIST IN REF F OF LEADING INDIAN EXPORTERS OF LOBSTER AND SHRIMP. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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7. NMFS REQUESTS EMBASSY CONCURRENCE IN DECLASSIFICATION OF PARAGRAPHS 1, 7, 9-10, AND 17-19 OF REF A IN ORDER TO PUT FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT INTO CONTEXT OF INDIA'S BUDGET FOR MARINE SCIENCES AND ECONOMIC PLAN. OES/OFA/MST OFFICER HAS NO OBJECTION TO NMFS REQUEST FOR DECLASSIFICATION.

8. NMFS REQUESTS MADRAS CONCURRENCE IN DECLASSIFICATION

AND PUBLICATION OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LEADING
INDIAN SEAFOOD EXPORTERS LISTED IN REF E WITHOUT CONFI-
DENTIAL QUANTITY AND VALUE INFORMATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING INDUSTRY, EXPORTS, ECONOMIC REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE303763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MBENEFIEL:EW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-1253
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761240/aaaabiv.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 13660, 76 BOMBAY A-42
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by ellisob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN FISHERIES CATCHES AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS
TAGS: EFIS, IN
To: NEW DELHI BOMBAY MADRAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006